

Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Section I contains the approved tools for performing wetland functional assessments. The Hydrogeomorphic Approach to Wetland Functional Assessments (HGM) is the procedure the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has adopted for assessing wetland functions. National policy regarding the use of HGM is found in the National Food Security Act Manual (NFSAM), Third Edition, Parts 516.12 and 527.6. Additional information on the concept of HGM may be found in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways and Experiment Station Technical Report WRP-DE-4, A Hydrogeomorphic Classification for Wetlands and may be found at the following web site:

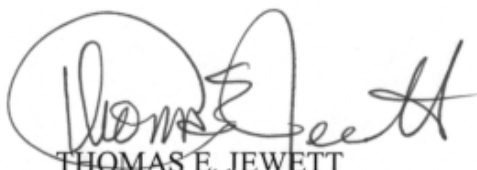
<http://www.wes.army.mil/el/wetlands/guidebooks.html>.

After review and discussion with the North Dakota State Technical Committee the following HGM models have been adopted for use in assessing wetland functions in North Dakota:

Operational Draft Guidebook for the Hydrogeomorphic Assessment of Temporary and Seasonal Wetlands, 1997. Approved for use on temporary and seasonal depressional (pothole) wetlands in North Dakota.

Interim Hydrogeomorphic Assessment Model for Groundwater Discharge, Low Permeability (Glacial Till) Substrate, Slope (Linear) Wetlands in the Northern Plains. Version 4.0 (May 2001). Approved for use on slope wetlands lacking concentrated (channel) flow in North Dakota.

Interim Functional Assessment Model for Lake Dakota Sand Plains, Version. 2.2 February 28, 1999. Approved for use on endosaturated wetland in southeastern North Dakota.



THOMAS E. JEWETT
State Conservationist
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